

| **Proposal Title:** Specialist Health Improvement Service Budget Reduction  **Proposal Number:** PHC-2024-25-001  **Proposal Type:** Service Delivery  **Directorate:** Public Health and Communities  **Service Area:** Public Health |
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## **Report summary**

* 1. Summary report of the proposed saving relating to the Specialist Health Improvement Service within the Public Health and Communities Directorate.

## **Recommendations**

* 1. £200K budget reduction from 2025/26 made from the Specialist Health Improvement Service.

## **Reason for recommendation**

3.1 Contribute to the corporate budget gap.

## **Alternatives considered**

4.1 Members could decide not to take the proposal forward and identify alternative savings proposals.

**5.** **Key information**

5.1 **Background**

The aim of Specialist Health Improvement Service is to:

* Improve the health and wellbeing of residents at a community level
* Provide behaviour change support to enable more people to adopt a healthy lifestyle
* Provide early help and prevention through opportunistic conversations with people who may have disengaged with formal services
* Apply a person-centred approach to address people’s wider issues e.g. employment, housing, finance, relationships
* Assist communities and groups to develop health and wellbeing initiatives themselves
* Train people to carry out health promotion and prevention work
* Develop health promoting places and promote the prevention of heart disease, stroke and cancers.

5.2 The current Specialist Health Improvement Service, called Living Well, is delivered by the Big Life Company. The contract commenced in April 2022 following a competitive procurement process.

5.3 Living Well have delivered specialist health improvement services in the borough since 2014. They lead on health improvement and prevention services, working closely with key stakeholders including adult care, primary and secondary care.

5.4 The core contract value is £898,685 per annum.

5.5 The proposed £200K reduction to the contract value represents a 22% reduction.

5.7 **Impact**

This proposal will have an impact on service delivery. There will be some wider impact on health services, council services, leisure services, and primary care including GPs due to slower responses from this support service.

Specific impacts of the reduction will be:

* A reduction in the number of people who can access behaviour change. In 2023/24 the service worked with 3000 residents. A 22% reduction in capacity equates to 660 fewer people
* Less capacity to adapt and respond to unexpected emerging priorities (i.e. Covid 19)
* A reduction in the number of lifestyle interventions for people living in areas of deprivation and targeted work with vulnerable groups
* Increased waiting times for people who are able to access the service from an average of four to eight weeks
* Connecting isolated people to people and activities is likely to reduce from 300 to 225 residents
* Training related to health improvement for staff working across the borough may reduce
* A reduction in opportunistic conversations with people who have disengaged with formal services
* A reduction in services to assist people to lose weight or be active
* The longer term impact will be that the need for treatment and management of lifestyle related health conditions (such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and type 2 diabetes) will increase.

5.8 The Council will continue to try to secure alternative funding opportunities to mitigate the impact of the proposed funding reduction.

## **6. Finance**

* 1. It is proposed that a saving of £200K will be made from the Living Well contract value. This represents a reduction of 22% from the current budget.
  2. There are likely to be redundancy costs related to the implementation costs of this proposal.

6.3 **Table 1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Saving 2025/26 £m** | **Saving**  **2026/27 £m** | **Saving 2027/28 £m** |
| Income lost (*show as a minus)* | N/A |  |  |
| **Net Saving** | **£0.2** | **£0.2** | **£0.2** |
| Additional income generated *(show as a positive figure)* | N/A |  |  |
| **Total Saving** | **£0.2** | **£0.2** | **£0.2** |
| Implementation costs | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| **Total savings less implementation costs** | **£0.2** | **£0.2** | **£0.2** |

## **Legal**

7.1 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

## **Human resource**

8.1 There will be HR implications for the service provider as a result of the budget reduction. This will likely impact some job roles. The exact number of staff affected will be determined following the consultation.

## **Sustainability and Equality Impact Assessment**

* 1. A sustainability and Equality Impact Assessment identified that the following groups would be disproportionately affected: older people; disabled people; people living in poverty; people who are hungry; people with health and wellbeing needs; people who are unemployed.

## **Other considerations (corporate priorities, risks)**

* 1. This proposal will impact on the council’s ability to deliver the priorities within the corporate plan relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents in the borough.